



Northland Christian Church Group Discussion Guide For the Week of April 17, 2022

Use the questions below as a springboard for discussion. You do not have to answer every question. Pick the ones you think will be helpful. Remember, Ultimately we want God's answers, not man's opinions. Always land where God lands. (ex: Where do we see that in the Bible?) Give grace. Give time for growth. Don't force it. Growth takes time, love, good questions, & support.

Connect

- What kind of foods do you like to prepare when you have people over for dinner?
- Why do people enjoy eating together?
- Best breakfast you ever had. Where? With Whom? Why?

Context

In order to understand John 21, be sure to read Luke 5:1-11, Peter was not just talking about a fun way to spend the afternoon when he said, "I am going fishing." He had a thriving fishing business before Jesus interrupted his life, and, having denied Jesus, he went back to it. He probably assumed Jesus had no more use for him. And he had to eat. But as soon as he got back on the water, Jesus interrupted his life again. Jesus actually repeated the exact miracle he did years earlier, on the day he initially called Peter to follow him. Then they enjoyed eating breakfast together. Eventually, Jesus gave Peter the opportunity to restate his love. Peter had boasted that he would die for Jesus, but then he denied him three times (See John 18:15-27). By asking him "Do you love me" three times, he pierced Peter's heart. No longer did Peter boldly affirm his intentions. Instead, Peter simply said, "You know all things. You know that I love you."

Jesus repeatedly told Peter to "Feed and tend" his sheep. With these verbs, he called him back to ministry. He also told Peter how he was going to die. Keep in mind, just a few weeks earlier, Jesus had been dressed in a purple robe and some people led him to a hill where he was crucified. Jesus told Peter he would also glorify God by dying as a martyr. That news hit Peter hard at first, as you might expect, but it served him greatly later. Through the power of the Spirit, Peter eventually came to peace with his destiny. It even made him bold. He ministered thirty more years before his own arrest and crucifixion.

We often feel useless and devalued because of our failures. Jesus offers forgiveness that motivates us to love him and pursue meaningful lives. Jesus' forgiveness frees us up to live courageous, meaningful lives.

Engage the Bible

Read the passage and share Surprises, Takeaways, and Observations from:

John 21:3-19 NIV

"I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. 4 Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. 5 He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered. 6 He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. 7 Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. 8 The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. 9 When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. 10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." 11 So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. 12 Jesus said to them, "Come and have

breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. 13 Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. 14 This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead. 15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." 16 Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." 17 The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. 18 Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." 19 Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

Discuss

1. Who was at this event? And why did they decide to go fishing?
2. What details does John give us about Jesus' loving preparation and provision for his friends? How did John and Peter respond to the large catch of fish? Why?
3. How does this third appearance enlarge and enrich his disciples' understanding of the resurrected Jesus?
4. How do you think it felt to be served breakfast by Jesus? Ask the Spirit to enable you to recognize the presence of the resurrected Jesus and respond with faith-filled-action.
5. For some reason the disciples seemed to not recognize Jesus. Share about a time that Jesus was working in your life but for some reason you didn't recognize it was Him at work.
6. What did Jesus mean by "Do you love me more than these? Why did Jesus ask him three times? (Read [Matthew 26:69-75](#), [Mark 14:66-72](#), and [John 18:25-27](#)) How did Peter respond? Why?
7. What did Jesus command Peter to do three times? What does that mean? What encouragement and good news is found in Jesus' conversation with Peter?
8. Have you experienced God's forgiveness? When? How? How has it affected your life?
9. Through what ordinary events in life have you encountered Jesus? When has God miraculously and abundantly provided for your needs?
10. When do you experience fellowship with Jesus? What steps can you take to have fellowship with Jesus today?
11. Read John 21:15-19. Jesus takes Peter for a short walk and invites him back into the original plan of ministry. Where is Jesus inviting you to care for others?
12. Why is experiencing God's forgiveness better than earning His favor?
13. Although Peter had failures in his life, he didn't allow the failures to define him. The account in John 21 would have been helpful for the early church. Share about a time you made a mistake and how the Lord used that mistake to encourage others.
14. If you knew how and when you were going to die, how might your life change?

End Your Group Time in Prayer